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PALM SPRINGS
WEDNESDAY
December 8, 1958
12:21 p.m.

AC
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JG

TELEPHONE CALL FROM SEC ANDERSON

The Sec returned the call and replied he does not think it is essential for A to be at NATO. A always adds weight and dignity to the Del and his judgment is awfully good on all these problems. Actually the most significant thing we will be talking about will be the political problems of Berlin and Germany and the Sec values A's judgment not as Sec of Treas but as someone who has good judgment. So he would like to have A there but does not think from the standpoint of the Del to NATO it is essential. He thinks there is a lot of merit to A's being here - he is going to need some supporting cast. The Sec will be sorry personally but thinks perhaps on balance it is in the general interest A should be here with the Pres on this. The Sec is sorry not to be in Washington for the NSC mtgs - will they be discussing the military budget? The Sec said he spoke to the Pres about it in Augusta. The real place he thinks to make savings is in terms of new weapons where there is certainly a terrific amount of overlapping and he told the Pres if they hold it down he hopes they won't shove the whole burden on conventional forces which we use everyday in our business. We have to maintain this. If we have to make cuts in Korea and Germany and if there were no forces for places like Lebanon and Taiwan and if we have nothing but nuclear warfare we will be in a bad spot. Each armed service thinks ~~it~~ ^{they}



it has the ability to destroy Russia. The Sec knows it is difficult to avoid duplication and overlapping but from where the Sec sits at least he just does not think it is likely that events will be pushed to a point where we will have to do that as long as we have reasonably adequate power to destroy Russia but he knows if we don't have some ground forces we will be in trouble right away. The Sec expressed that view to the Pres. He mentioned the carrier business which is technical and which he does not know anything about. The necessity for forces such as were necessary in Lebanon and Taiwan will be recurrent every few months probably and if we don't have that then we will have a problem.

The Secretary said Anderson said he agreed fully.

pdb